* Government has approved the enlargment of TUFS by offering to small scale powerloom units an additional option of credit-linked incentive of 20% of the cost of modern weaving machinery admissible under the scheme, upto a cost of Rs. 60 lakhs, with the facility to obtain credit from a credit network that includes all co-operative banks and other genuine non-banking financial companies (NBFC) recognized by the Reserve Bank of India.

Measures to promote sericulture

1692. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silk Industry is bracing up to compete with China;

(b) if so, the measures evolved to achieve the objective;

(c) whether Centre is running any project in sericulture farmings in Orissa to popularize rearing of silk worms, as is the position in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main programmes being undertaken by the Government under the X Plan for sericulture development in the country included:

(i) Research and Technological efforts of Central Silk Board for improving the qualitative and quantitative cocoon/raw silk production by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds any hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry varieties of food plant and silkworm, adoption of integrated eco-friendly approach for pest and disease management, upgradation of reeling and processing technologies in silk;

(ii) Seed Support & Technical Assistance by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed support and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high, yielding and drought resistant seeds;

(iii) Central assistance to States through Centrally Sponsored and Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area

under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes strengthern seed supply, cocoon & silk testing systems, in all four varieties of silk;

(iv) Popularisation and transfer of technologies developed to the field through the States' extension machinery, training to the beneficiaries, organizing various awareness programmes, etc;

(v) Under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development financial assistance is being provided to various States for implementation of sericulture projects of all varieties of silk with the technical assistance of CSB;

(vi) Establishing vertical linkages between the raw silk producers and the industry; and

(vii) Establishing quality certifications systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.

(c) and (d) The Central Silk Board is implementing the following scheme/project in Orissa for development of silk industry:—

(1) Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) — Under this programme, an amount of Rs. 50.62 lakh has been released to Orissa State during 2002-2003 for providing financial assistance to beneficiaries regarding rearing appliances/farm equipments, drip irrigation, quality disinfecting materials, construction of rearing houses, crop insurance support; tasar/eri/muga seeds and commercial seed etc.

(2) Project on conservation of wild modal tasar eco-races in Simlipal biosphere, Mayurbhanj district, Orissa—The total cost of the project is Rs. 2.60 crores for a period of 5 years from 2001 to 2006. The main objectives of the project is to conserve the existing Modal and Bogaei eco-tasar silkworm races populations in the Similipal Biosphere of Orissa State and to harvest continuous yield of cocoons from the conserved population.

Funds for Assam Silk Industry

1693. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing funds for reviving the indigenous Assam Silk Industry.